their guns were also protected by earthworks which they threw up during the night.

By the morning of the 2nd all these places were full of infantry, and their artillery was so posted as to be able to fire over the heads of their infantry, whilst a strong line of skirmishers was in front of all, which was frequently relieved. They kept up a galling fire on us all day. There was a terrific cannonade between the enemy's guns and ours, which were posted on the north and east of the town. This was not very destructive to our infantry line, because, being in the valley, the shots passed over us.

But late in the afternoon, after the artillery had about ceased firing, couriers and aids were seen riding rapidly from one commanding officer to another. We knew what that meant. The order was given "*Forward, guide-right.*" Hays' brigade of Louisiana was on our right; ours, the 6th Regiment, was next to Hays'; Col. Isaac E. Avery of the 6th was in command of our brigade; Lieut.-Colonel S. McD. Tate was in command of the regiment. Never can that time be forgotten. Every man in that line knew what was before him. We had seen them gathering on Cemetery Hill; we had laid under the fire of their numerous guns; we knew the preparations they had made for us. Yet, promptly, at the command, the line moved forward, and in a few minutes we were in full view of the enemy's batteries and their lines of infantry. Their sharpshooters emptied their rifles at us and fell back to their main line at once, and every gun was brought to bear upon us. The fire was terrific, but our men moved forward very rapidly, bearing to the right, having the batteries on Cemetery Hill as their objective point.

As we approached the hill the guns on Battery Hill, over towards Culp's Hill, had an enfilading fire on us. Still our men rushed forward; crawled over the stone wall near the base of the hill; drove from behind it a strong line of infantry, and went still forward to the top of the hill, and silenced the numerous pieces of artillery that had been so advantageously posted. We had full possession of East Cemetery

Hill, the key to Gen. Meade's position, and we held it for several minutes.

It was then after daylight had gone down; the smoke was very dense, and, although the moon was rising, we could not see what the enemy were doing, but we could hear them attempting to rally their men, and more than once they advanced close up to us. But our men had formed behind a rock wall, and as they approached fired a volley into them, which drove them back. This occurred at least twice. No one who has never been in a similar position can understand how anxiously we looked for reinforcements. None came however, and before long orders came for us to fall back to our original position.

By not supporting Hoke's brigade of North Carolina and Hays' Brigade of Louisiana, in the storming and capturing of Cemetery Hill the battle of Gettysburg was lost. I do not know whose fault it was; but I feel assured in saying that it was not the fault of the storming column. They did their whole duty and fell back only when orders came for them to do so.

Much has been written about the battle of Gettysburg, and what was accomplished by the different commands and the troops from the different states. But, at the risk of being charged with immodesty, I venture to claim that the storming and capturing of Cemetery Hill on the evening of the second day was not surpassed by anything that was done during the three days' fight. The facts on which the claim is based will appear to any one who will go to the spot. He will there see the positions of the contending armies and the strength of the hill. The breastworks and embankments protecting their guns are still plainly visible. Its defences and the lines of the positions of its defenders are all marked by durable monuments. And on the topmost summit he will find a cluster of monuments, the inscriptions on which recite the the desperate assault made by Hoke's and Hays' Brigades on the 2nd of July, 1863, and especially mentions the hand-to-hand conflict, after